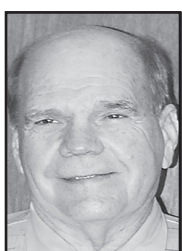


Family

Don't leave Joseph out of the scene

If I told my congregation that I would be preaching about someone from the nativity scene, they would more than likely guess that I would choose baby Jesus, Mary, the wise men, the shepherds or even the angels. I doubt they would consider Joseph.



Wes Barnett

• From the Pulpit

I know I haven't preached sermons on Joseph nor have I heard many. We acknowledge him in the manger scene, but barely recognize him in other ways.

I heard of an 8-year old girl who was showing a picture of the nativity to a friend. After looking at the sheep, the cows, the shepherds, the angels, Mary and the baby Jesus, the friend asked, "Where is Joseph?" The 8-year old thought about that for a moment and said, "Well, Joseph must be the one taking the picture."

That's how it is. Joseph is out of the picture. But the more you look at his life and think about his role, the more you realize he was a remarkable man. He possessed three outstanding qualities all men need.

First, Joseph was a just man. Both Matthew and Luke wrote that Mary and Joseph were betrothed but not yet married when "she was found to be with child." We have to assume he was crushed by this. Joseph did not know what had happened to Mary, and the rumor reached him before Mary could tell him herself.

Under Jewish law, a betrothed woman was treated as married (Deuteronomy 22:23-24). Unchastity of either the man or woman was considered adultery, and carried the death penalty. But Joseph, "being a just man," did not

want to make a public example of Mary by having her publicly punished. Neither did he want her as his wife.

The law did not compel a husband to accuse his wife of adultery and have her stoned, so Joseph decided to follow the middle course. He would not marry her, nor would he turn her over to those who enforced the law. Instead he decided to "put her away privately." Matthew 1:20 tells us what changed his mind: "But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.'"

Second, Joseph was obedient to God. Four times he was commanded to act by an angel of the Lord. All four times he obeyed. In Matthew 1:20, he was told to take Mary as his wife. They married before the child was born — completing the marriage contract. In Luke 2:21 he was told to name the child Jesus. In Matthew 2:13 he was told to "take the young child and his mother and flee to Egypt and be thou there until I bring thee word, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." In Matthew 2:19-20, he was told when to return to Israel. Joseph

did all these things as he was commanded.

Third, Joseph knew the value of being a spiritual husband and father. In Luke 2:21-22 he obeyed God's law by having the child circumcised when he was eight days old. When he was 40 days old, Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem for purification rites (Leviticus 12), and to present Jesus to the Lord at the Temple. Joseph also took his family to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Passover (Luke 2:41). These acts confirm his loyalty to his faith and his obedience to God's laws.

By the standards of his day, Joseph was not wealthy. We know he was a carpenter and able to support his family. When Joseph and Mary came to dedicate the Lord Baby Jesus, Joseph, as a sacrifice, brought two turtle doves, instead of a lamb and one turtle dove.

God made the Levitical law so no man — even the poorest — would be left without an acceptable sacrifice, no matter wealth or circumstances (Leviticus 12). God knew there would be people so poor they had no lamb to offer Him.

In the last appearance of Joseph, Luke tells how he and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem during Passover when Jesus was 12. Here we see his concern for his family; he realized he was responsible for their spiritual well-being. Later, Joseph was not involved in Jesus' ministry and since Jesus asked the Apostle John to take care of his mother, Mary, at the time of his crucifixion (John 19:25-27), many scholars assume that Joseph had died some time during Jesus' youth.

All of these qualities speak well of Joseph. He was a godly man and a just man who wanted to raise his family in a godly home; however, the best reason for our knowing Joseph was such a good man was that God chose him to be the earthly father of Jesus.

Next month, I will continue with the series on the life of the Apostle Paul.

I wish all of you happy holidays and God's blessing on all of us.

Wes Barnett is pastor of College View Baptist Church in Colby. He can be reached at either (361) 459-9348 or wesb@st-tel.net.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Wednesday

8:26 a.m. — Dog at large at Seventh and K-25. Contacted owner.
7:58 a.m. — Burglary/theft incident at T.O. Haas.
10:45 a.m. — Accident at Kambredlo's.
11:30 a.m. — Picked up juvenile for County Attorney.
1:25 p.m. — James Carney reported

ported bank card used. Report for three counts theft, one count identity theft.

1:25 p.m. — James Carney reported bank card used. Report for one count theft.

2:41 p.m. — Joan Denton reported tires slashed at Colby Community College.

9:17 p.m. — Dog at large; owner contacted.

Bridge Club

Meadow Lakes Bridge Winners for Dec. 15: first, Sarah Jane Barrett; second, Mary Kersenbrock; third, Katie Melvin; fourth, Mary Molstad; fifth, Gail Vacca; sixth, Betty Sloan.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.03
Corn (bushel)	\$3.37
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.39
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.12

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Rodney Lynn Jumper

Rodney Lynn Jumper, son of Earl and Selma Jumper was born on July 19, 1941 in Colby, Kansas and departed this life December 3, 2009 at the age of 68 at the Rawlins County Health Center.

Survivors include his daughter, Nira Barricklow of Colby, his son, Larry A. Jumper (Becky) of Colby, their mother, Sharon Jumper of Colby, grandson, Kelsey Jumper of Manhattan, KS, grand daughters: Lori Wicks (Brian) of Colby, Jennifer Jumper of Hays, KS, Paetyn Barricklow of Goodland, KS, one great-grandson, Dylan Wicks of Colby, and sister-in-law, Van Jumper of Atwood. Other survivors include niece, Jackie Jumper of Apple Valley, CA and her children Diahn and Jason and Lynn's nephew Doug Kissell and family, plus a host of other family and friends.

Lynn completed his education in the Atwood school system. He enlisted in the United States Army January 27, 1960. He was stationed in Germany as a tank operator when the Berlin Wall was built. On January 10, 1963 he was honorably discharged as a Specialist 4.

He worked as an automotive parts man, journeyman/lineman, and fulfilled his passion to own and operate his own tractor/trailer during his later years.

Lynn spent a great deal of time as a youngster on the farm with his older brother, Don, his wife, Van and their son, Ben. He considered Don as a second father and always reveled in watching Don repair the farm implements by taking them apart and correctly putting them back together.

He loved sports. He was staunch a supporter of the Broncos, and delighted in haggling his grandson about the Raiders. He played first base fast/pitch baseball for what he called...Ludell U. He coached Little League softball for his grandson's team in Goodland. The players affectionately called him "Loud Mouth Coach", and he proudly wore the tee shirt declaring it was true.

Lynn especially appreciated the family times spent with his grand children. They had water fights and Easter egg hunts, went camping and fishing, and worked in the garden together.

Lynn was a lifelong member of the VFW in Goodland. As his health permitted he proudly participated in the Color Guard at patriotic events.

During his last three years he had numerous health issues. He moved into the Good Samaritan Center on his birthday in 2007, where he stayed until his passing. During his stay he had a positive impact on the lives of those who were caring for him. He maintained his humor and wit despite tremendous pain and physical limitations.

Pastor Don White officiated the Memorial Service on December 14, 2009 at Williams Funeral Chapel. Inurnment ceremony was conducted at Fairview Cemetery in Atwood.

SERVICES DIRECTORY

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

Schedule of church services

GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION ON-THE-RAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Wednesday Youth at The Rock 3:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday Nite Life at The Rock 5-6 p.m.. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Pastor Mark Carlton, Senior Pastor and Pastor Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: Sundays at 7 p.m. RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-890-3375, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, AND CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. Don White and Rev. Tim Llewellyn, East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m.; Services, 11:00 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwr-erth, Director, 785-687-2565.

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

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